

## **DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND EMERGENCY STATUS REPORT # 15**

**Friday, July 9, 2004**

### **SITUATION OVERVIEW:**

***Preliminary Damage Assessment:*** On May 28, 2004 Governor Granholm and the Emergency Management Division of the Michigan State Police (EMD/MSP) requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to conduct a joint federal / state / local Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) of the damaged areas in order to document the nature, scope, magnitude and recovery costs of the disaster. The PDA was conducted on June 2-5 by a total of eight survey teams – four examining damage to individuals and businesses, and four examining damage to public facilities and infrastructure.

***PDA Findings.*** The PDA individual assistance teams determined that the most severe impacts to individuals and businesses occurred in the counties of Barry, Berrien, Jackson, Kent, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne, which collectively had nearly 94 percent of the major damage and 96 percent of the minor damage to structures. The PDA teams estimated that 163 homeowners will require rental assistance for up to two months at a total cost of nearly \$235,000. Repair assistance for 2,539 homeowners is estimated to cost in excess of \$6.5 million, while home replacement costs for five homeowners are estimated at an additional \$51,000. All totaled, the teams identified 2,637 homeowners that will require federal housing assistance in the aftermath of this disaster, at a total cost of \$6.8 million. The teams also identified over \$1.6 million in “Other Needs Assistance (ONA)” for 644 homeowners, which will cover the replacement of essential household items that were damaged or destroyed by the flooding and storms. The combined housing assistance needs and ONA exceed \$8.4 million, which equates to more than \$3,000 per affected homeowner. The remainder of the \$32 million in home and business damage will likely be covered by SBA low-interest disaster loans.

The damage to public facilities was equally widespread and severe. The PDA teams identified nearly \$7.4 million in public damage costs, the majority of which (\$4.7 million) was for Category A (debris removal) and Category C (roads and bridges) work under the federal Public Assistance Grant Program. The teams also identified \$916,255 in Category B work (emergency protective measures), while Category D, E, F and G damages totaled another \$1,743,200. One-third of the public damage occurred in the counties of St. Clair, Cass and Berrien, although damage was fairly uniformly spread throughout the affected area. All but three of the affected counties had public damage in excess of \$100,000, and most had damage in excess of \$250,000.

***Presidential Major Disaster Declaration.*** On June 18, 2004 Governor Granholm submitted her letter of request to the President for federal disaster relief assistance for the affected counties under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288, as amended). **On June 30, 2004 President Bush granted that request and declared a Major Disaster for the counties of Barry, Berrien, Cass, Genesee, Gladwin, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Kent, Livingston, Macomb, Mecosta, Oakland, Ottawa, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair, St. Joseph and Wayne (see map below).** (The counties of Arenac, Newaygo, Saginaw and Van Buren, which were included in Governor Granholm’s request, were not included in the President’s Declaration.) **The federal declaration number for this disaster is 1527-DR-MI.**

The President's June 30 Declaration makes available **Individual Assistance** (for home and business damage) and **Hazard Mitigation Assistance** (to fund measures that reduce future risk to hazards), but **not** Public Assistance (assistance to governmental agencies to repair / restore / replace damaged public facilities). On June 30, 2004 the Small Business Administration also issued a Disaster Declaration for the counties of Barry, Macomb, St. Clair and Wayne, which makes low-interest disaster loans available to affected homeowners, renters, and businesses in those four counties as well as the contiguous counties of Allegan, Calhoun, Eaton, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Monroe, Oakland, Sanilac and Washtenaw.

***Delivery of Disaster Assistance.*** The FEMA **Disaster Assistance Tele-Registration Number (1-800-621-3362, TTY: 1-800-462-7585)** has been operational since July 1 and has, to date, received over 15,000 calls from individuals registering for disaster assistance. Federal inspectors have been dispatched to the declared counties and are contacting applicants that have registered via the 800 number to determine if they are eligible for assistance under FEMA's "Individuals and Households Program" and/or the Small Business Administration's low-interest disaster loan program. In addition, FEMA "Community Relations Teams" have also been dispatched to the declared counties to ensure that as many individuals and community groups as possible receive information on the available assistance and are aware of the need to call the 800 number in order to register for that assistance.

A Disaster Field Office (DFO) has been established by FEMA in East Lansing and a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) has been established in Dearborn Heights at the Justice Center located at 25637 Michigan Avenue. (The Dearborn Heights DRC is open from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM, 7 days a week.) Another 3-4 DRCs will be established around the state in the coming days. The locations of the DRCs will be widely publicized locally and will also be available on the FEMA web site at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). (A Disaster Recovery Center is a location where citizens can go to receive information on disaster recovery programs, actions they can take to reduce or eliminate future damages to their home or business, or help with any other disaster-related concerns they might have. Citizens **DO NOT** have to go to a DRC to register for disaster assistance. Rather, that is best done by calling the 800 number listed above.)

Declaration 1527-DR-MI also makes federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance available to the State of Michigan in the form of grants under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The amount of funding the State will eventually receive under the HMGP will equal 7.5 percent of the total amount of disaster assistance provided under the Stafford Act for this disaster, less any associated administrative expenses. The HMGP can be used by eligible local governments, state agencies, private nonprofit facilities and Indian Tribes / Tribal organizations to fund cost-effective, environmentally-sound measures that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to people and property from hazards. The HMGP funds are administered by the EMD/MSP and the Michigan Hazard Mitigation Coordinating Council (MHMCC) in accordance with the provisions set forth in the "State of Michigan HMGP Administrative Plan." The EMD/MSP and MHMCC will be providing additional information on the availability of HMGP funds to potential applicants in the coming weeks.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THIS DISASTER:**

***Cause of Disaster.*** Federal Disaster 1527-DR-MI was caused by a series of rain-laden thunderstorms that moved in procession across southern and central Lower Michigan during the period from May 20-24, 2004, which resulted in severe urban and riverine flooding in many areas, but particularly so in southeast Michigan and along the Grand River and its tributaries in central and western Michigan. The severe flooding continued until June 8, when the last remaining flood warning was cancelled by the National Weather

Service. The strong storms also caused severe wind damage in several southern Lower Michigan counties. At the height of this disaster, a total of 573,000 American Electrical Power, Consumers Energy, and DTE Energy electrical customers (roughly 6 percent of the State's population) experienced power outages due to wind damage to power lines and other electrical infrastructure. All totaled, nearly 5,000 homes and businesses incurred in excess of \$32 million in damage from the flooding and storms. One hundred sixty seven (167) homes and one business incurred major damage. Public damage was also significant in many areas, totaling nearly \$7.4 million statewide. However, in the counties of Arenac, Berrien, Barry, Cass, Gladwin, St. Clair and St. Joseph, public damage losses were particularly high.

**State Response Actions.** In response to the storms, Governor Jennifer Granholm ordered the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) partially activated on May 21, 2004 to monitor the situation and collect / compile damage and impact assessment information. On May 25, Governor Granholm and Lt. Governor Cherry toured affected areas in Ionia County and Macomb County to review the damage firsthand. On June 3, Governor Granholm declared a State of Disaster, pursuant to 390 PA 1976, as amended, for the following 23 affected Michigan counties: Arenac; Barry; Berrien; Cass; Genesee; Gladwin; Ingham; Ionia; Jackson; Kent; Livingston; Macomb; Mecosta; Newaygo; Oakland; Ottawa; Saginaw; St. Clair; St. Joseph; Sanilac; Shiawassee; Van Buren; and Wayne. State agencies were directed to provide whatever assistance they could to the 23 affected counties in responding to and recovering from the flooding and storm damage. On June 18, Governor Granholm formally requested disaster relief assistance under the federal Stafford Act. Governor Granholm's request was granted on June 30 with the President's Major Disaster Declaration 1527-DR-MI.

**Map of Declared Area: 1527-DR-MI**



**UNLESS THE DISASTER CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY, THIS WILL BE THE FINAL STATUS REPORT FOR THIS INCIDENT.**